

CLAIMS

5 1. An apparatus for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a container, comprising:

a) source of electromagnetic energy located relative to the container to direct electromagnetic energy at the container;

10 b) a detector disposed relative to the container and the source to detect electromagnetic energy from the source which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and

c) means for indicating the presence or position of the product in the container responsive to fluorescence, absorption or reflection of the electromagnetic energy by the product.

15 2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the product is a contact lens.

3. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the ultraviolet range.

20 4. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the infrared range.

5. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the contact lens contains an ultraviolet absorbing media which absorbs electromagnetic energy in the ultraviolet range.

25 6. An apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said absorbing media is an ultraviolet blocker.

30 7. An apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said absorbing media is an ultraviolet photoinitiator.

8. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy in the visible range and said contact lens contains a tint.

9. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the lens is a hygroscopic lens.
10. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the lens includes a media which absorbs or reflects electromagnetic energy of a wavelength in a specified range, and the container includes a receptacle for the lens and is constructed from a material which absorbs or reflects the electromagnetic energy differently than the lens.
11. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said lens includes a media which absorbs or reflects electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in a specified range and said detector is sensitive to electromagnetic radiation in the specified range.
12. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, further comprising a plurality of sources and a plurality of detectors disposed relative to each other for detecting the presence or position of a contact lens in a container.
13. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector is a calorimeter.
14. The apparatus as recited in claim 13, further comprising a filter.
15. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector is a spectrometer.
16. The apparatus recited in claim 15, further comprising a filter.
17. A method for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a container, the product including a media which fluoresces, absorbs or reflects electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range, the method comprising:
- (a) directing electromagnetic energy of a frequency in the specified range at the product and the container;
 - (b) detecting the electromagnetic energy which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and
 - (c) processing the detected electromagnetic energy to determine the presence or position of the product in the container.

18. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the ultraviolet range.

5 19. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the infrared range.

10 20. A method for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a container, the product including a media which fluoresces, absorbs or reflects the electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range, the method comprising:

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- (a) directing electromagnetic energy at the product and the container;
 - (b) detecting the absence of or reduction in electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and
 - (c) processing the detected electromagnetic energy to determine the presence or
- 15 position of the product in the container.

21. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the ultraviolet range.

20 22. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the infrared range.

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